



News Release

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Mississippi Valley Division/
Mississippi River Commission
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Mississippi River Commission to hold meeting on Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project

Vicksburg, Miss., April 02, 2002 -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Commission (MRC), will hold a public meeting April 23, 2002, concerning the Final Feasibility Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on Morganza, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Protection project. The meeting will be conducted at the MRC Headquarters Building at 1400 Walnut Street, Vicksburg, Miss. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. and will adjourn at 4 p.m. Members of the public and other interested parties are welcome to observe the meeting.

On December 12, 2001, the New Orleans District conducted a public meeting on this project in Houma, La. During that meeting, interested parties were invited to provide comments. The comments from that meeting have been considered and appropriately addressed in the FEIS.

The purpose of the MRC public meeting is for the Mississippi River Commission staff to brief the commission on the report and recommend a position for the members' consideration. In light of this purpose, the MRC will not be receiving comments from the

public.

The commission, established in 1879, is responsible for navigation, flood control and other water resources development on the Mississippi River.

The MRC has statutory authority to operate on the Mississippi River from its headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minn., to Head of Passes, La. This authority is dependant upon Congressional authorization and funding of projects. The projects considered and implemented by the MRC may be part of the existing Mississippi River and Tributaries project or separate projects.

Brig. Gen. Edwin J. Arnold, Jr., is President of the Mississippi River Commission and Division Commander for the Mississippi Valley Division.

Interested individuals may obtain further information on the meeting by contacting Stephen Gambrell at (601) 634-5766.